30th October 1935]

Principles guiding the prescription of grazing fees in Reserved forests and panchayat forests.

* 319 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) on what principles the rates of grazing fees are fixed in respect of each reserved forest as well as each panchayat forest;

(*b*) whether these rates are uniform in all the forests at least in each district; and

(*c*) if they vary from place to place, what the reasons therefor are?

A.—(*a*) In the reserved forests, grazing fees are fixed with reference to the following principles:—

(i) though grazing fees contribute largely to the forest revenue, they are not looked upon primarily as a source of revenue;

(ii) their levy is made more with a view to regulate grazing in the interests of cattle and of its improvement for the prosperity of agriculture, so that grazing grounds are protected by limiting the number of cattle to be admitted to grazing; and

(iii) permission to graze is a concession of value the grant of which should be regulated with close reference to the betterment of the cattle of the ryots. In the case of Panchayat forests, the panchayats are allowed to fix the rates subject to the condition that the rates should not ordinarily exceed the departmental rates obtaining in the locality.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The reasons for the variation are local and are due to climatic and economic conditions obtaining in the different areas, the amount of grazing available and the demand therefor.

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), in view of the fact that in the Kurnool district there are vast areas of forests, may I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of reducing the grazing fee in that district?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"These circumstances were taken into account when the fees were fixed."

Disafforestation of the Lakkampatti reserve to provide lands for the people of Samballi village, Salem district.

* 320 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Lakkampatti Reserve in Alamarathupatti village of the then Mettur taluk of Salem district was